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# The Panther

March 5, 1993

The Official Student Publication of Prairie View A&amp;M University

Volume 69, No. 19



Photo By Walter Smith

Spike Lee

## Lee tackles variety of issues at A&M

Texas A & M University recently sponsored the inaugural Texas Film Festival which showcased America's finest, contemporary, independent, minority, and regional film makers. On February 24, noted film maker, actor, producer, and director Spike Lee opened the events with a showing of his most recent release, *Malcolm X*. On the opening day of the festival Lee, held a press conference. Walter Smith represented *The Panther* at the press conference. The following are a few excerpts from the discussion:

**Media:** There are a number of racial problems, here on this campus in particular. What

would you tell Black students here who deal with this?

**Lee:** "Before I can deal with that, this is the first time I have been here. I've been here for only an hour and wherever I go across the United States, they (students) ask me the same thing. I'll talk to some of the students and see what the situation is. That's what I usually do. I grab some Black students, actually I don't grab them they usually corner me and tell me what the situation is."

**Media:** In general do you think that showing a movie such as *Malcolm X* will help solve the racial problems?

**Lee:** "I don't know if any film is going to change people's views, people's attitudes over

night. They say that there is a long tradition at Texas A&M so 3 hrs. and 21 minutes of a film is not going to eradicate that right away. However, they did ask me to come here, so maybe that's the first step."

**Media:** So you are not going college to college criticizing schools race relations?

**Lee:** "Oh, am I being a Nat Turner or Denmark Vessey, causing a slave uprising across the United States of America, trying to dismantle the whole Division I, basketball, football, billion dollar industry? NO!"

**Media:** Spike, let's get back to the Oscars. For the past two years in a row have you felt any racist overtones from the

academy?

**Lee:** "If you just look who the members of the academy are? They are the Hollywood community. You have to be a part of that community, and I do not want to be part of it. I don't make movies for the Academy of Motion Pictures and Arts and Sciences."

**Media:** What are your predictions to the verdict of the second (Rodney) King trial?

**Lee:** "It is my hope and prayer that those cops don't get acquitted again, and there is a little more color in the jury this time than two Blacks and a Hispanic person. So we will see what happens then."

**Media:** Will you ever make a movie about it?

Continued on page 2

## Bathrooms can be hazardous

By HUGH E. GRIFFIN  
Panther Reporter

The bathroom---the one place we can go to and feel safe from the world---turned out to be an unsafe refuge for one student recently.

On the night of Feb. 19, a student resident of Holley Hall was "taking care of business" when he was knocked unconscious by flying plaster board from the bathroom ceiling.

The student's roommates, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, claim that the victim in this incident was unconscious for approximately fifteen minutes, about the time it took for the ambulance to arrive.

The victim was rushed to the hospital.

Despite his complaints, the student said he was barely examined, his complaints of a possible pinched nerve in his neck were not taken seriously, and then he was given crutches for a twisted ankle and discharged that night.

The bathroom has been repaired since the Friday night incident, but residents claim maintenance personnel left hazardous materials behind.

The student has said that the dorms are poorly maintained and that he plans to sue the university for a currently undecided amount.

## Glitter, talent animate Miss PVAMU Pageant

By ERICA SANDERS  
Panther Reporter

The Miss Prairie View A&M University Scholarship Pageant held on Feb. 26, proved to be one of the most exciting pageants the university has had in years. The contestants were Rezolia "Co-Co" Johnson, Keisha Johnson, Tawana Walter, Tonya Scott, Tonia Alexander, and Donna Tomlinson.

The judges included Marci Johnson, Robert E. Harris, former Associate Director for the Miss PVAMU Pageant, Carol Mack, and Todd Davis. They are all certified Miss Texas judges.

The contestants, and former Miss Prairie View Cynthia Lester, danced in glittering sequenced cocktail dresses for the opening. The contestants were also adorned with sizzling Mardi Gras-style masks. The a capella group Ideal, performed the opening selection entitled, Lift Every Voice And Sing. The second selection was performed by the group, Basis. The contestants showcased their swimsuits in the first phase of the pageant. The colors of the swimsuits, varied from lime green to hot pink.

In the talent segment of the pageant, Rezolia Johnson performed Donny Hathaway's "Someday We'll All Be Free." Keisha Johnson performed a classical rendition on the violin entitled, "Minuet" by Bach. Tonya Scott performed a vocal entitled, "Black Butterfly", by Denise Williams. Tawana Walter performed a stirring dramatic interpretation of the

poem, "A Black Mother's Prayer." Tonia Alexander performed a beautiful rendition of Miki Howard's song, "Imagination." The last segment of the talent competition was elegantly performed by Donna Tomlinson.

After the talent segment of the pageant, the rap group One-Too-Many performed a rendition called "Dedicated to a Beauty Queen."

The last performance before the evening gown segment, was performed by two dancers. They performed romantically to the theme from the hit animated movie, Aladdin.

The evening gown segment of the pageant proved to be the highlight of the evening, and certainly a crowd pleaser. Rezolia gracefully wore a sparkling white beaded gown that was lavished with beads. Keisha wore a Paris-style couture gown. Her gown was lime with bouffant collars, and a black floor length skirt. Tonia looked enchanting in an elegant red rhinestone beaded gown, with a sweetheart neckline. Tawana was sizzling in an Egyptian-style navy-blue gown with a rhinestone beaded neckline. Tonia looked like a princess in a crystal navy-blue beaded gown. The collars consisted of beaded fringe. Donna, number six, Tomlinson, looked like a nubian princess as she wore a dazzling emerald green and white gown.

After the evening gown segment was concluded, the Classic Dance Ensemble, performed to Whitney Houston's "I'm Every Woman."

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Photo By Miles Carter

Miss PV and runners-up after the pageant.

## Furor develops over Miss PV contestants

By MORENIKE EFUNTADE  
Panther Reporter

The newly crowned Miss Prairie View is beginning her reign in the midst of much controversy. Many students were upset about the results of the 1993 Miss Prairie View scholarship pageant and questioned their validity.

This prompted SGA that students had with the President Tiwana Flagg to call an emergency SGA meeting in

the Memorial Student Center last Monday.

Flagg said that the purpose of the meeting was to find out why students were so upset about the pageant. "Hopefully a lot of questions were answered," Flagg said. "We need to find out what the animosities and problems were and to find out what the outcome of the pageant."

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University Choir heads for Cincinnati.

## PV choir bound for Ohio

By CRYSTAL LACHAPPELLE  
Panther Reporter

The century-old Prairie View A&M University Choir has been selected to compete in the 12th Annual American Negro Spiritual Festival at Cincinnati's historic Music Hall on March 21, 1993.

The choir was one of the three choirs chosen to appear at the festival. It (University Choir) will compete against Alcorn State University Choir and Southern University & A&M College.

The American Negro Spiritual Festival is a benefit for the Human Involvement Project, a United Way agency, which serves disadvantaged

youth in the inner city in Cincinnati. It is a unique honor to be selected as a participant at this event. Last year's winners, Philander Smith College of Little Rock, Ark., performed at the Presidential Inauguration in Washington at the request of President Clinton.

The Prairie View choir has been around since the early days of the university. The exact date of its founding is unknown, but interviews suggest that the first choir may have appeared in the late 1800s.

The purpose of the choir was to bring about "cultural enrichment" to its audiences musically. Today, the choir's goals have not

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## US 290 expected to benefit area

By MONA SMITH  
Panther Reporter

Warning: a new freeway is coming through a town near you. In the next few years Waller County can look forward to a new U.S. 290.

The present U.S. 290 will be closed after the construction of the new 290 is completed.

Although this State of Texas Improvement Project was proposed in the late 70's construction began in Sept.

"This new project

will be a major artery used to transport goods and services from the port of Houston to San Antonio", Waller County Commissioner, Frank Jackson said.

Public hearings were held to inform citizens of the upcoming construction. Waller County residents anticipate the new highway to bring growth and success to their community.

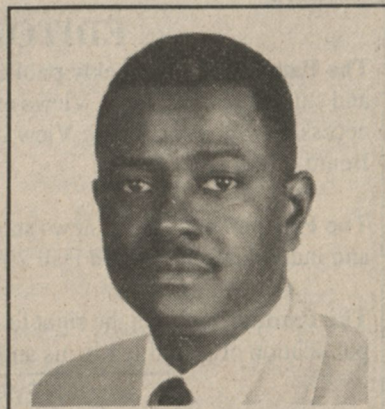
County Engineer, Steven Douglas said, "Waller will be the first to benefit from the new U.S. 290. But Prairie View will probably have the best advantage".

This new project is

expected to attract more businesses to the Prairie View area as well as provide an easier route to cities such as Houston, Austin, and San Antonio.

According to the Houston Post, Steve Simmons, state highway department engineer in charge of the bypass project, said, "This is all about creating a safer and more efficient traffic environment."

Although it is unknown when the freeway will be complete, this new



Frank Jackson

project is said to be a great economic development for the state of Texas.



# NEWSWEEK

## Alumni Foster Support for PV

By CHARLEEN WOMACK  
Panther Reporter

Calm, serene, and peaceful describe the National Alumni Association located at University Drive at U.S. Highway 290.

The office is run by Dr. James Johnson, the Executive Director and the Administrative Secretary, Ms. Erma Simon Sadberry. He administers the business of the Prairie View chapter. Business hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The association moved into the building in March

1991 and the building was dedicated two months later. A cornerstone bearing the names of the Board of

Directors was erected to mark the occasion.

From 1986 to 1991, the Association underwent several name changes, and in February that year the State Chapter changed the name to its current name, Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association.

According to its charter "The purpose of the Association is to form a union of Prairie View A&M University alumni, ex-students, and citizens of simi-

lar aspirations for the perpetuation of Prairie View A&M University by building and fostering understanding and support of Prairie View A&M University, to provide services to the same, serving as a nucleus for the various PVAMU Chapters and other clubs, and organizing and implementing various types of programs to secure grants and other financial assistance for the University."

The Prairie View A&M University National Alumni Association is open to stu-

dents who have received degrees, completed at least one semester or full summer



National Alumni Association building on University Drive.

term (both sessions), and have departed the university in good standing.

The current membership fee for a lifetime is \$250, and the annual nation-

al fee is \$25. Local dues vary from chapter to chapter.

"Due to the fact that we are a non-profit organization, we do accept all donations from those who are

willing to give" says Dr. Johnson.

Mrs. Pauline Bonner is the liaison between the university and the National Alumni Association.

## ROTC Performs at Mardi Gras

By ARNETTA PORTER  
Panther Reporter

The Prairie View A&M University Army ROTC, Suicide Drill Team, performed in the largest parade during the New Orleans Mardi Gras festivities.

The drill team consisted of nine students who marched and performed various drill routines in the Krewe

Endymion. Mardi Gras largest and longest parade

route.

Drill team Commander, James Porter said, seeing all the hardwork payoff, was satisfying and knowing that he as the leader did a fine job in teaching the discipline and motivation.

Drill team member, Twala Anderson said what she liked most about performing in the parade, was that they were watched and supported by thousands of people.



Army ROTC students stand at attention.

## 11 From PV Attend Conference

By MARIETTA SHELBY  
Panther Reporter

A group of 11 Prairie View A&M University students attended a First Amendment Conference held at the University of Houston's Hilton Hotel, Wednesday February 24, 1993, to discuss Constitutional rights of journalists.

James Dickerson, the President of U of H said, "The topic of the First Amendment, is pertinent, the discussion is timely and critical to the success of the country."

Six case studies were examined at the conference dealing with possible ethical decisions reporters might have to make during the course of their daily reporting.

Ron Stone, Channel 2

Anchorman and moderator of the conference said, "The best reporter is one that understands all stories are different."

Professional radio reporter Derrick Holly of KIKK radio station said, "Journalism is an extremely competitive business."

In response to the question about his daily journalistic responsibilities to the public Holly said, "To see things most people are unable to see and to tell the story as objectively as possible."

Attending the conference were future journalists from Sam Houston University, University of Houston and Prairie View as well as local high schools such as Jack Yates and Willow Ridge.

## GLITTER

Continued from page 1

Ideal performed another capella rendition, and Bass beautifully serenaded the contestants, and distributed flowers to them.

As the evening was coming to a close, former Miss Prairie View 1992, Lester, gave her farewell speech to the crowd in an lovely purple suede gown. Ms. Congeniality was awarded to Rezolia Johnson, and Donna Tomlinson. The best talent award was awarded to Tonia Alexander and Donna Tomlinson. The

judges held the audience at the edge of their seats, as they slowly announced the winner of the pageant.

Finally, the second runner-up was Alexander. To the dismay of the audience, the first runner-up was Tomlinson. The lucky lady who was awarded the title of Miss Prairie View 1993, was the lovely Rezolia Johnson.

Overall, this pageant was one of the most exciting in recent years, and all of the ladies did a wonderful job. All of the contestants were more than worthy of the title, and all of them are definitely winners!

## SPIKE LEE SPEAKS

Continued from page 1

Lee: "Never!"  
Media: Spike, let's get back to the Oscars. For the past two years in a row have you felt any racist overtones from the academy?

Lee: "If you just look who the members of the academy are? They are the Hollywood community. You have to be a part of that community, and I do not want to be part of it. I don't make movies for the Academy of Motion Pictures and Arts and Sciences."

Media: What are your predictions to the verdict of the second (Rodney) King trial?

Lee: "It is my hope and prayer that those cops don't get acquitted again, and there is a little more color in the jury this time than two Blacks and a Hispanic person. So we will see what happens then."

Media: Will you ever make a movie about it?

Lee: "Never!"  
Media: Have you had any chances to further investigate your claim that the CIA and the FBI could have prevented the assassination of Malcolm X?

Lee: "My view is still the same. The FBI had The Nation and Malcolm under surveillance and they knew it was going to happen, and they let The Nation go ahead and assassinate Malcolm X. They (The Nation) did the job so they wouldn't have to do it."

Lee fielded the media's questions in his usual fashion: snappy and to the point. He mentioned that he is a film maker and not the spokesperson for 35 million African-Americans.

Lee briefly spoke on how he sat down with Minister Louis

Farakhan, in Chicago for four hours and how there were no problems with himself and the Nation of Islam.

After the sessions were over Lee got mixed comments from the Prairie View student body

One particular comment that was continually asked was why would Mr. Lee speak at Texas A&M which has approximately 42,988 students (African-American 1,127 2.8 percent) and not at a Prairie

View. Mr. Lee is quoted to have said that he would speak at any HBCU for free.

The director of Student Activities Mr. Frederick Roberts felt that the students were short-changed. He feels that the students expected to hear more on Mr. Lee's struggles and expectations rather than him fielding specific questions. He thinks the forum was healthy for some students but not the whole.

## Pastor Raps Prairie View

By TAMECA ALLEN  
Panther Reporter

Dr. Michael P. Williams, Senior Pastor and Founder of Joy Tabernacle Church in Houston, Texas came to

Prairie View and discussed the need for strong Christian leadership roles.

Williams offered to bring a bus on campus for students who would like to attend his

Church on Sunday mornings, but the administration rejected the offer, Williams said.

## FUROR

Continued from page 1

Flagg listened to the concerns of the 75 to 100 students attending the heated meeting.

Many asked that the scores be made public because they felt the announced results were not accurate.

Students also discussed getting out of the Miss America Pageant system as it might not meet our needs as a black university.

Betty Hall, producer of the pageant answered several questions. Hall said that she had nothing to do with who won the pageant, that her job was to work with whoever was selected as Miss Prairie View. She also said that students should consider leaving the Miss America System.

"The judges from the Miss Texas system are looking for the person that best represents them, not the person to best represent Prairie View A&M," Hall stated.

Leaving the system became an issue because many students felt that the 1st Runner up should have won the pageant, but was not chosen because she is of Jamaican citizenry and would not be eligible to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant.

The main topic of concern was the contract that all the contestants must sign to enter the pageant. Several students made allegations that some of the contestants were in violation of the contract and therefore should not have been able to enter the pageant.

The contract, which is required under the Miss America rules, requires each

contestant to vow that she does not have a criminal record, is single, is not cohabitating with a man in lieu of marriage and is of good moral character. The students have alleged that the Prairie View pageant committee failed to do a complete background and moral character check on the contestants.

According to Frederick Roberts, Executive Producer of the pageant, all contestants were cleared by the Dean of Students. Roberts said that in the past, after looking at the contract, many contestants have dropped out.

Flagg stressed that this was not a personal attack against any of the contestants. "We just want to know the facts so we won't be humiliated as a school, student body and so the lady is not humiliated when she goes to other pageants," Flagg said.

Students decided that they will send petitions to the administration requesting a background check on all 6 contestants to quell the rumors. On March 30 during scheduled elections, students will vote on whether the University will stay in the Miss America system.

Roberts said that the scores are not usually made public, but because of all the controversy, he will open the scores within a few weeks to validate the results that were announced.

The Prairie View pageant officials, the auditor for the pageant, and another university official must be present when the scores are opened. Roberts says he does not intend to publish all the results, just the scores of the top 3 contestants.

He said that if anyone has any fact or information about the contestants they should come forward.

"We don't want PV or the students to be in an embarrassing situation, we've had enough negative coverage," Roberts said. "We do have a responsibility to investigate so that PV won't be put into a negative situation."

Still, Mr. Roberts hopes that the student body will be bigger than the rumors, and support the young lady that has been selected to represent them.

### THE PANTHER

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The Panther is a bi-weekly publication supported through advertising and student activity fees. Views expressed in the Panther are not necessarily those of Prairie View A&M University or The Texas A&M Board of Regents.

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The Panther reserves the right to editorial discretion concerning publication of submitted items and photographs.

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# LIFESTYLES

## Jammin' at PV

# Jazz Concert Swings Despite Turnout

By ERICA SANDERS  
Panther Reporter

Attending a Jazz Concert can be an exciting, yet tranquil experience. The Jazz Concert held on February 23, 1993, featured saxophonist Kyle Turner and Gary Tolbert. The concert proved to be one of the best concerts CAB (Campus Activities Board) has produced this semester.

Fred Roberts, who is the head of Student Activities at Prairie View A&M University, opened the show with an introduction of the featured artists, and announced to the crowd that he was surprised that over ten people showed up for the event; approximately forty people attended. Despite the low turnout, the

audience was vigilant and full of vigor.

The concert was full of many surprises. The first surprise came from saxophonist Gary Tolbert, who is a senior majoring in Music Education. He performed four musical renditions that included hits such as R Kelley's "Honey Love", and Gary Brown's "Don't Make Me Wait."

The audience enjoyed Tolbert's poignant stance, as well as the beautiful performance he executed. Tolbert has aspirations to teach music, but says that his ultimate goal is to become a commercial artist.

Tolbert says that he is greatly influenced by George Edwards. Edwards is the Band

Director for Prairie View. Last but not least, Kyle Turner performed for the audience. His performance was jubilant and energetic.

The crowd clapped and snapped their fingers throughout his entire performance. During Turner's performance, he dedicated a song to Tolbert. He acknowledged Tolbert's enormous musical talent, and stated that he has great respect for him as a musician.

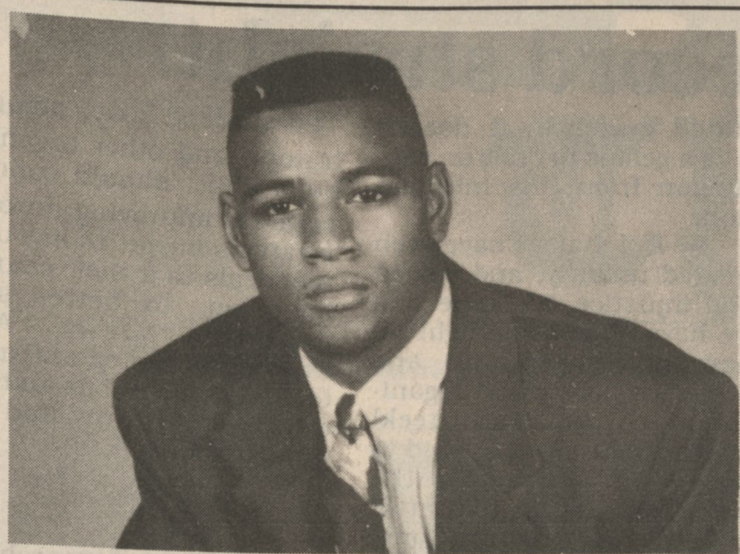
At the end of Turner's performance, he received a standing ovation from the audience. Turner's band consisted of two gentlemen on keyboards, a drummer, and a bassist by the name of T.J. Jenkins. All of the members of his band performed excellently, and have incredible talent.

Turner has been performing since the ripe age of eleven, and can recall the days of taking piano lessons. At the age of nineteen, Turner had the opportunity to tour with blues legend Johnny Taylor. He also had the honor of touring with Grammy Award winner, Luther Vandross.

Turner toured with Vandross for four months, during his "Any Love" tour. Turner currently has an album entitled, "It's Time."

He is working on getting his album at local record stores. Turner resides in Austin, Tx. He can be seen performing at upscale nightclubs, such as The Elephant Lounge.

Overall, Turner said that he wants to make people happy through his music.



Brian Nelson, 1993-1994 Mr. BSM

## New Mr. and Miss BSM recently crowned

By SHREE CLARK  
Panther Reporter

Brian Nelson, a freshman from Houston and Tamia McEwen, a freshman from El Paso won the "Mr. and Ms. BSM" pageant held last Thursday night at Phillips All Faiths Chapel.

Brian and Tamia were among 10 talented students, five men and five women, who competed in the pageant, organized by The Baptist Student Movement and coordinated by Olevia Brown, a member of BSM. The Runners-up were: Fourth place winners Dondrick Sidney and Lisa Thomas; followed by Third Place winners Christopher Knight and Diane Johnson; Second place winners, Steve Armor and Johuetta Roberson; and our first runners-up, Davion Smith and Candace Brigham.

The pageant started

with the introduction of each contestant given by the master of ceremony, Hoi Ellis, and mistress of ceremony, Shelene Butler.

The contestants then took place in a talent competition, followed by the formal wear and interview segments.

Brian Nelson, an early childhood Development major, says his goal as Mr. BSM is "to let my light shine before men so that my works glorify my Father who is in heaven." He vows to exemplify love, respect, and intelligence as a representative of The Baptist Student Movement.

Tamia McEwen, a political science major says her goal is to "grow stronger in the Lord so that I may be an example in speech, life, love, faith, and purity as said in 1 Timothy 4:12."

## Springfest set for March 14

By EVETTE JOSEPH  
Panther Reporter

March 14th through March 20th marks the week of Prairie View's 1993 Annual Spring Fest.

"This year promises to be one of the best ever," says Loretta Davis, Entertainment Director. This Spring Fest will feature more activities that all students can participate in.

George Smith, Staff Assistant will be heading a new event this year called Comedy Showcase that will

feature talented comedians from different areas.

Spring Fest will start Sunday March 14th with a Gospel Fest featuring Prairie View's own Baptist Movement along with other gospel choirs.

On Monday there will be a game show. Either P.V. Studs or "The Newlytogether" game is scheduled from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

On Tuesday the game show Family Feud will be played from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Wednesday is "Green Day" in honor of St. Patrick's Day and everyone is asked to wear something green. A movie festival will be held that night from 7 p.m. until 12 a.m. Thursday at 7 p.m. will be the comedy showcase.

Friday Night is the talent show. Sign-ups are from March 16th-18th. A party will follow in the babydome.

Saturday is the concert and at press release time the names of the performers have not been released. Immediately after the concert a party is scheduled to take place in the babydome.

## Alpha Kappa Alpha holds annual founder's day

By MONICA ROBINSON  
Panther Reporter

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first black Greek organization for women, observed its annual Founder's day in the Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel Sunday, February 21

In honor of its founders, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. chose to worship at the morning service with the students of Prairie View A&M University. With that in mind, Antoinette

Butler, Anti-Basileus of the Zeta Gamma Chapter, said,

"Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was founded with the objective of Service to all Mankind. Therefore, we wanted to do something for founder's day this year that would not just benefit our sorority, but the university and student body as well." Another member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Shondra Marshall, stressed the importance "...to try and keep the students of Prairie View A&M University involved in as many programs as possible...and give stu-

dents a chance to understand our purpose and goals."

**"The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha held a remarkable program proving the spirit of sisterhood is still alive which led to an inspirational service."**

Ricci Jett

Antoinette Butler presided over the morning service with the help of other members of Alpha Kappa Alpha,

Patti Verner, Natasha Newberry, and Angelica Dunlap. The Baptist Student Movement Choir of Prairie View also contributed greatly to the program. The worship service ended with a powerful message from Rev. Van Johnson, Dean of Johnson-Phillip All Faiths Chapel and the Medley of Greek Hymns. Prairie View student, Ricci Jett, said "The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha held a remarkable program proving the spirit of sisterhood is still alive which led to an inspirational service."

## Laundry Problems Avoidable, manager Townsend explains

By COTTRELL JACOBS  
Panther Reporter

Students have been complaining about problems they face when dealing with the cleaning services on campus, but according to Ollie Townsend, laundry manager, one problem could be avoided if students would keep their receipts when they leave their clothing.

Townsend stated that there is normally a three day turnover period when students drop off clothes, but when they return to pick the clothes up, they do not have

the receipt and a problem arises. If presented with a receipt, the attendant on duty knows to look three places, process, assembly, or finish, but if there is no receipt, time will be spent looking elsewhere and students become impatient and leave the cleaners frustrated. When students then return, their clothes may be misplaced.

Once an item is established as being lost, a claim form is issued and the student is asked to return in two days to check and see if a recovery has been made. If no recovery has been made, students want a full reimbursement for the

garment. Full reimbursements are only given for recently purchased clothing, and then a student must produce the store receipt indicating the date and cost.

However, if an older piece of clothing is lost or damaged another factor is considered when reparations are made.

International Fabricare, an international cleaning organization, has set rules as to determine the life expectancy of clothing. Most clothes have a life expectancy of 2 to 3 years factoring in the type of material and frequency of wear. In such cases when dealing with older garments, and amount is pre-estimated on the customer and cleaner must work out the exact figure.

Townsend stated that "all cleaners have the same prob-

lems." The University has nothing to do with the cleaning refund policies, but many students feel since it is located on campus, the university controls it.

The cleaners serve not only students but also faculty and staff, and the community. Townsend said that at one time, the cleaners was open on weekends to better accommodate students, but there was no business; therefore, it was only logical to open through the week. The hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The cleaners have been located on campus since the late 30's, and Townsend stated that he started working here in 1942 and advises students to keep their receipts and they should have no problems.

## Run for the border!

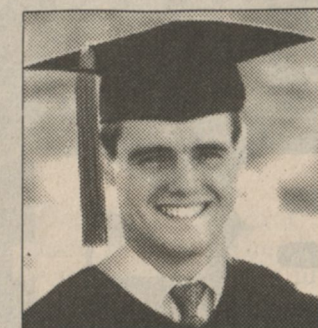
(Walk, swim, ski, fly, drive, skip, or hop! Just get there some how!)



## TACO BELL!

Located in the MSC! Located in the MSC! Located in the MSC!

## GIVE US TIME TO REPAY YOUR LOAN.



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# VIEWPOINTS

## Sigma Gamma Rho attempts to set the record straight

In response to the article, "Four Greek Organizations Under Discipline?", published Feb. 19, 1993; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., would like to take this opportunity to respond to the accusations established as a result of the Organization Review Boards disciplinary proceedings. "We were charged with perjury, induction of illegal members, and forgery. As a result of these charges we received a two year probation. The key word omitted from the charges was "alleged", because none of these charges to this very day have been proven. We feel that these charges have disgraced our sorority, and demeaned everything that Sigma Gamma Rho has represented and accomplished over the years."

"In regards to the sanctions brought against us, we would like to express our viewpoints on how the charges were established and why we consider them to be alleged."

### Forgery of an University Officials Name

This event was initiated when a young lady, who was

interested in becoming a member of SGR, submitted G.P.A. request form for verification to be processed by the registrar's office. Upon the completion of the form, which was stamped and signed (allegedly forged by SGR), it was returned to the young lady and submitted to SGR. After receiving the form from the young lady, SGR mailed the form along with other G.P.A. request forms, to the National Office contact with the G.P.A. request form after it was processed by the registrar's office (after the fact) 2.) At that present time, SGR did not have any members employed or associated with the registrar's office to have access to the department stamp or an official's signature. 3.) The young lady submitted the form to SGR after it was processed by the registrar's office (signed and stamped) - So could it be possible that someone in the registrar's office made an error and let SGR pay for their mistake?

These are some of the factors associated with the case that we feel are important and has not been examined.

### B. Induction of Illegal Members

This charge was implemented mainly on fraudulent information which many organizations fall victim to. Every organization on P.V.'s campus can testify to this age-old misconception in one form or another. The primary premise behind this is that "everyone is in everyone's business". Just because a person sits behind your banner at a basketball game, attend various community service functions sponsored by your particular fraternity/sorority, or take photos at various recreational activities, doesn't mean that they want to become or is affiliated with your organization.

During the Organization Review Board hearing it was assumed that a young lady was a member of SGR because one of the board members insisted that he had observed her wearing paraphernalia, participating in a Greek Show, and sitting behind the SGR banner. On the first two alleged charges, no documents of proof was presented to support the board

members claim. No pictures, written statements, or video tapes; nothing. In our view, this may be a figment of imagination. On the third statement, the Organization Review Board did a good job in obtaining evidence that captured, on video tape, this young lady sitting behind the SGR banner with non-greek paraphernalia. Great job!!

### C. Perjury

Ironically, this charge comes from the results of the for processing. After a short period of time, four approvals for membership were granted, and one denial. The denial was issued because the G.P.A. summary was inaccurate. An investigation was implemented to see how this error came about. After an administrative investigation, it was discovered that the signature on the G.P.A. request form was inconsistent with a university official. Now, several questions and comments come to mind: 1.) SGR had previous accusations. Due to the fact the O.R.B., felt that we were falsifying evidence dealing with the person above. In view of the above-

stated evidence, it doesn't take a genius to draw a conclusion from this information.

We feel that we have been treated unfairly, and issued and injustice. We hope that we have shed some light on how misconceptions and prejudice have made organizations (Greek/Non-Greek) suffer greatly. People tend to pay attention to all the derogatory issues that arise out of the organizations, whether it is true or false, and stereotype them as such.

The student body, administrators, and other organizations alike, should concentrate on improving an organizations image, to live up to the ideals that their charters have set, to better serve Prairie View A&M University. Instead of trying to discover methods and procedures to destroy and manipulate them."

Sincerely,  
Sigma Gamma Rho



Photo by Miles Carter  
Miss Prairie View : Rezolia Johnson

## CHOIR

Continued from page 1  
changed much. Their aim is to provide their audiences with cultural diversity through a variety of musical pieces.

The choir has 60 members, but only 45 members can go on tours. The choir goes on many concert tours in and out of state. On Friday, March 5, they will be going on a tour to several cities including Birmingham, Ala., Charlotte, N.C., Hampton, Va., Washington D.C. and New York. It is through these tours that the choir gets exposure and recognition, said Yalisha Reed, a third year member of the choir. She said that the choir has improved tremendously since she first joined.

Curtis Powell is in his second year as director of the choir. He says there are many talented people in the choir who are exceptionally committed and dedicated to being the best. He also says that being chosen for the American Negro Spiritual Festival is an honor and he and the students are very excited.

Powell also feels very confident that his choir will win the competition.

## Contestants morals questioned

Dear Editor,

I am writing to question the moral character of our new "Miss Prairie View 1993-94." It is my understanding that Miss Johnson was involved in an altercation at a local Houston club which resulted in her being arrested. Is this a good example of the values we want Miss Prairie View to exemplify? I think not!

There seems to be a cloud of mystery surrounding Miss Johnson's name. It is rumored that she is seeing a professor in the music department. Whether true or not, her reign has already come to a bad start.

Another point of concern has to do with the contestants. Since their photos appeared in *The Panther* last Friday (February 19, 1993), much has been said about the qualifications for a Miss Prairie View contestant. To my knowledge, several of the young ladies have all but spotless pasts. I know that we are all human and should not be judged, but when you place yourself in the public eye, you

are going to be carefully watched.

I have written to *The Panther* to ask for your help in clarifying certain items.

1. During contestant interviews, are they judged on a Miss Prairie View or a Miss Texas scale?

2. If it is based on the Miss Texas scale, then why allow international students to enter, knowing they cannot represent P.V. at the Miss Texas pageant.

3. Since at least 5% of the

student body is from a foreign country, shouldn't our guidelines be restructured so that ALL female students with certain criteria (G.P.A., background, etc.) are eligible.

4. What are the standard criteria to campaign for the Miss Prairie View?

As a concerned female student, I would greatly appreciate it if *The Panther* could find out the answers to these questions.

Signed,  
A concerned student

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# S.G.A. Constitution

## PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We the students of Prairie View A&M University in order to provide an official and representative student organization to investigate student problems and take appropriate action, promote effective representation and responsible student participation in the overall policy and decision making processes of the University, promote academic excellence and the quality of education, provide the official voice through which student opinion may be expressed, do hereby, adopt, and establish this Constitution for the Student Government Association of Prairie View A&M University.

### ARTICLE I: NAME

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Prairie View A&M University.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Membership in the Student Government Association shall consist of all students officially

enrolled at Prairie View A&M University.

### ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING

3.1 The governing structure of the Student Government Association shall consist of two branches: the Executive Branch, and the Legislative branch.

3.2 No individual shall be a member of more than one branch referred to in 3.1 with the exception of the Vice-President, for he shall serve as President of the Student Senate.

3.3 The Student Government Association shall receive funding from the Student Services Fees and optional student fees which have been appropriated and approved as being such. Any additional revenue may be generated as the Student Government Association deems to be necessary provided that all University guidelines are met.

### ARTICLE IV: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

4.1 The Executive Branch of the Student Government Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Comptroller, Recording Secretary, Parliamentarian, who shall be elected from a majority vote by the Student Body, an Executive Secretary, Chaplain, and

Sergeant-at-Arms appointed by the President and approved through the Legislative Branch. Only elected Executive Branch members are permitted to vote in Executive Branch meetings.

4.2 A candidate for President must be a student of Prairie View A&M University and have completed at least sixty(60) semester hours in residence at Prairie View A&M University prior to assuming office. All Executive Branch members must be full-time students, have at least a 2.50 grade point average prior to assuming office. While holding office the Executive Branch members must maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative grade point average, must not be on disciplinary or scholastic probation, and must be in good standing (academically, financially, and morally) with the university. In the event that an Executive Branch member shall fail to meet any of these requirements or is placed on conduct probation, the Student Government Association shall ask for the Executive Branch member's resignation. If the resignation is not received by the Student Senate President within seven(7) class days the individual is thus considered terminated and replaced immediately. All decisions are final and are not subject to review. All

incumbent powers or responsibilities bestowed upon the individual member are declared null and void upon the request of the individual's resignation.

4.21 In the event of the inability of the President to fulfill the duties of his/her office, or upon his/her removal or resignation from office, the Vice-President shall assume the office of the President subject to a vote of confidence by two-thirds(2/3) of the Senate present and voting at an announced meeting. Upon failure of Executive Vice-President to receive this vote of confidence, the Senate will proceed to elect the President from within the Student Senate.

4.22 To file for a Student Government Association Executive Branch position, the candidate must submit an election petition containing the signatures of one-hundred(100) currently enrolled students.

4.23 The term of office for the Student Government Association official shall commence ten(10) class days after certification of all election results.

4.3 The President shall:

4.31 Carry out all duties properly incumbent on the President of the Student Government Association and act as the ceremonial

representative of the Student Body.

4.32 Faithfully execute all acts of the Student Senate.

4.33 Present a tentative specified, goal-oriented plan for upcoming year to the Student Senate.

4.34 Serve on, or appoint a representative to committees, boards, and councils of which he or she is a member. He/She shall also serve as a member of the Student Services Fees Advisory Committee.

4.35 Have the power to call a special meeting of the Student Senate, address the Student Senate, receive senatorial reports, and answer all questions for clarification purposes prior to all actual senatorial meetings. The President shall not participate nor vote in

at an announced meeting within fourteen(14) class days of the vacancies.

4.38 Create any needed committees, and receive the approval of two-thirds(2/3) of the Student Senate present at an announced meeting. The chair of any committee will coordinate with a specified Student Senator appointed by the President of the Student Senate. The Student Government President shall also recommend to the President of the University all student appointments to various University-wide Committees with the approval of two-thirds(2/3) vote of the Student Senate at an announced meeting.

4.39 Enter into agreement with agencies and organizations outside the University community, on the behalf of

TO: All Prairie View A&M Students

RE: Ratification of SGA Constitution

This is the revised  
Constitution for the Student  
Government Association  
of Prairie View A&M  
University.

A Special Election is set for  
your vote on this document  
for Friday, March 19, 1993.

We encourage you to  
review the document and  
participate in the election.

Thank you for your  
support of the SGA.

the actual Student Senate meetings.

4.36 Have the power to veto all legislation passed by the Student Senate. The power of veto may be overridden by a (2/3) vote of the Student Senate present at an announced meeting provided that fifty(50) percent of duly sworn senators are present, thus consisting a quorum, and provided that the senators were notified at least forty-eight(48) hours before such meetings. Any legislation not signed or vetoed within five(5) class days shall be considered passed. This veto power shall not extend to Constitutional Amendments or measures approved in initiative or general elections.

4.37 Have the power to appoint individuals to fill any open Senate seats with an approval of the individual by two-thirds(2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate present

the Student Government Association, subject to the majority approval of the Student Senate or majority approval of the Officers of the Senate in case the Student Senate is in recess. Recess shall be defined as the Summer Sessions and official University holidays and breaks during the academic year.

4.4 The Vice-President shall:

4.41 Succeed to the Presidency in case of removal, resignation, or incapacitation of the President.

4.42 Assist the President with the assigned responsibilities.

4.43 Serve as President of the Student Senate; yet, he/she may not vote or debate an issue within the Student Senate unless there is a tie.

4.44 Serve as liaison for the Student Senate and the Student Government Association President.

4.45 Have the authority and responsibility to create the agenda for each meeting, to recognize those senators who wish to address the student body during the meetings and appoint chairpersons and members to serve on or supervise various Senatorial committees with a majority vote of the Student Senate at an announced meeting.

4.46 Have the power to appoint a Recording Secretary and other positions necessary to the administrative functions of the Senate aside from those stated in the Student Senate Bylaws, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the Student Senate present at an announced meeting.

4.47 Manage all operations of the Student Government Association as assigned by the Student Government President.

4.5 The Comptroller shall:

4.51 Demonstrate accounting and money management skills. This individual is required to have successfully completed at least one accounting or money management course.

4.52 Provide suggestive measures for acquiring additional revenue.

4.53 Institute a double entry accounting system that follows the approved rulings and procedures of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

4.54 Assist the President in developing an annual budget for approval by a majority vote of the Student Senators present at an announced meeting within sixteen(16) class days into the fall semester. The allocation of funds in the budget may be changed by the Senate before approval by a majority vote of the Student Senate present at an announced meeting.

4.6 The Executive Secretary shall:

4.61 Assist the President and Vice-President with all administrative procedures (typing letters, making appointments, etc.) and carry out all duties properly incumbent on the Executive Secretary of the Student Government Association.

4.7 The Parliamentarian shall:

4.71 Be responsible for ensuring that the procedures of the General Student Government Association meetings are in conjunction with Robert's Rules of Order.

4.8 The Chaplain shall:

4.81 Conduct religious exercises (such as

providing the General Student Government Association with a prayer prior to meetings).

4.82 Be available as a consultant or counselor to Student Government officials to keep matters in perspective.

4.9 The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

4.91 Be responsible for maintaining order during the proceedings of the General Student Government Association meeting and any Executive Branch meetings.

4.0 The Recording Secretary shall:

4.01 Be responsible for the recording of the proceedings of the General Student Government Association meetings and any Executive Branch meetings.

### ARTICLE V: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

5.1 The Legislative powers shall be vested in the Student Senate of the Student Government Association of Prairie View A&M University. The Student Senate shall be the official group which shall identify students concerns and formulate student policy.

5.2 The Student Government Association Senate shall assemble on the first and third Thursday of each month when classes are in session. The President of the Senate is empowered to call additional meetings at any time he/she deems necessary, and these shall constitute officially recognized meetings provided a quorum exists, and provided that the Senators were notified at least 48 hours before such meetings.

5.3 The Student Senate shall be composed of twenty-two(22) student positions. Eleven(11) Senators and three(3) Vice-Presidents shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Government Association utilizing the Place System.

5.31 The Student Senators shall have to meet the same requirements as the Executive Branch members in order to assume and maintain office with the exception of the appointed Senators and the Freshman and Sophomore Class Representatives.

5.32 Seven of these Senators shall represent seven academic colleges of the University. In order for a candidate of one of these Senate positions to campaign and assume the presumed office, he/she must be a student of the presumed college. The Seven College Senators positions are the College of Applied Science and Engineering Technology, Arts and Sciences, Nursing, Business, Education, Engineering and



# S.G.A. Constitution

Architecture, and Benjamin Banneker Honors College.

5.33 Seven at-large positions shall be elected by a majority vote of the Student Government Association. These Senators shall be representative of seven different departments or incumbent position descriptions. These senatorial officers will represent External Affairs, Graduate School, Athletics, Off-Campus, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Vice-President for Student Affairs, and Vice-President for Administration.

5.34 The Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class senatorial representative shall be the Class President of each class for the current academic school year.

5.35 Four senators shall be appointed by each individual association, council, and board. Those being the Council of Student Organizations(CSO), the Residence Hall Association(RHA), the Pan Hellenic Council(PAN), and the Campus Activities Board(CAB).

Each Senator is to serve as a liaison for his/her particular College, Department, Council, Organization, or Class and the Student Government Senate thus allowing more collaboration among these entities and providing a more efficient and knowledgeable Student Senate.

5.4 The Senator for External Affairs shall be concerned with Legislation affecting intercollegiate, intergovernmental, and former student relations.

5.5 The Vice-President for Academic Affairs shall serve as a member of the University Academic Council, represent the Student Government Association at the Dean's Council meeting, be a member of the Admissions and Registration's Committee, and any other duties formulated by the Student Government President.

5.6 The Vice-President for Student Affairs shall serve as a member of the University Student Affairs Committee, be a member of the Student Handbook Committee, coordinate Student Orientation Activities, and also be abreast of all issues pertaining to Student Health, Recreation, Fiscal, and Financial Aid Affairs.

5.7 The Vice-President for Administrative Affairs shall coordinate and collaborate with the University Administration on all activities relative to the general welfare of the student body, thus maintaining good relations between the Student Body and the University Administrative Officials.

5.8 The Student Senate shall:

5.81 Enact all measures necessary and

proper for the general welfare of the student body in accordance with this Constitution.

5.82 Establish such laws and procedures as are necessary for the proper functioning of the Senate by a majority vote of the membership.

5.83 After receipt of the Student Body President's tentative specified goal-oriented plan, the officers (listed in the Bylaws of the Student Senate) shall create a Senatorial Agenda. These agendas shall be presented for a majority approval of the Senate at the second Student Senate meeting of the fall semester.

5.9 Business shall be conducted as follows:

5.91 A majority of the members of the Student Senate shall

constitute a quorum at meetings.

5.92 A general minutes of all Student Senate meetings shall

be made available to the public.

5.93 The second Student Senate meeting of every month shall be open to the general public and all other Student Government Association officials. All other meetings shall be closed and only consist of members of the Student Senate, for the Senate shall be in Executive Session. Publication shall be posted stating such at least seventy-two(72) hours before the Executive Session convenes.

5.94 Non-members of the Student Senate are not allowed to participate in the Student Senate meetings. A special request may be made by a non-member of the Student Senate to the Student Senate President that an individual be allowed to address the Student Senate.

5.95 All bills passed by the Senate will be represented by the President of the Student Senate to the Student Government Association President for his/her approval or veto.

5.96 The Student Senate may call a general referendum of the student body in order to consider proposed legislation.

5.97 The student body shall have the power to enact measures independent of the Senate to legislative issues. An initiative petition containing the signatures of ten(10) percent of the student body or referendum petition containing ten(10) percent of the student body shall be required to call a referendum within ten(10) class days after issuance of petition obtained from the Student Government Association office. The petition shall contain the date of issuance, the signatures, and identification numbers of the signers. The measure shall be held within fifteen(15) class days after presentation of the petition to the Student Government Association President. The result of the referendum shall

be implemented by the Student Government Association President.

## ARTICLE VI: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

6.1 In the event of the removal of a Student Government Official in the form of impeachment, a Judiciary Committee shall be formed to preside over such a process.

6.2 The Judiciary Committee for the impeachment process shall consist of seven individual members of the Student Government Association appointed by the Student Body President and approved by two-thirds(2/3) majority vote of the Student Senate. For specifications regarding this process refer to the Student Government Bylaws.

If the petition is valid, the Student Senate shall order an election, and upon receiving a majority of the ballots cast in an election by the members of the Student Government Association, the proposed amendment shall become binding and a part of this Constitution.

7.4 Any proposed amendment, together with parts of the Constitution affected, shall be published in the Prairie View A&M University student newspaper at least one week prior to the election.

7.5 All approved amendments will be incorporated into the body of the Student Government Association of Prairie View A & M University Constitution in the appropriate places.

the third Tuesday of each month classes are in session. The President of the Student Government Association is empowered to call additional meetings at anytime he/she deems necessary, and these shall constitute officially recognized meetings, provided that notice has been given to the student population by the appropriate advertisement at least seven(7) days prior to the General Assembly with the Student Government Association.

## ARTICLE XI: GENERAL PROVISIONS

11.1 This Constitution and Bylaws of the Student Government Association, and amendments thereto are subject to the provisions of the Rules and Regulations of

11.5 The General Election for Student Government Association officers shall take place on the fourth Tuesday in March in each school year.

11.51 The position of Student Government Association President and Vice-President are separate, and candidates must file and be elected specifically for either of these positions.

11.52 All other references and regulations relative to the election process shall fall under the Bylaws and guidelines of the Election Code of the Student Government Association of Prairie View A&M University.

11.6 Every elected official of the Student Government Association, before entering upon the execution of his/her duties of office shall take the following oath or affirmation.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute to the best of my ability, the office of (title of office) for the Prairie View A&M University Student Government Association, and at all times protect the welfare of the student body and to promote good relations between the students and those concerned with the University."

All elected officials shall be deemed elected and sworn in ten(10) class days after the final election for the respective positions.

11.7 The summer session of Prairie View A&M University shall be considered a regular session only for those Executive Officers, Senators, and Members of the Student Government Association enrolled in summer school.

All action taken by the Legislative body during summer session shall be subject to approval by the legislative body at its first meeting of the fall semester.

11.8 All officials elected under the requirement of the previous Constitution which this Constitution supersedes, shall remain in their corresponding offices and exercise their duties and responsibilities as set forth in this Constitution until their terms of office have expired.

11.9 There shall be no constitutional provision requiring a minimum number of voters participating in any general election in order to validate that election. It shall be the responsibility of the Student Government Association to encourage and facilitate a maximum voter turnout in all Student Government elections.

12.1 This Student Government Association Constitution stands approved and ratified by vote of the Student Body on \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE XII: CERTIFICATION

## SGA: RESTORING THE PRIDE AND PROFESSIONALISM

## OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS UPON YOUR SUPPORT

## "UNITED WE STAND"

## ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

7.1 An amendment may only be introduced by a member of the Student Senate and must have the endorsement of the majority of the Senators and may not be acted upon until it has been read a third time at a regular meeting. There shall be a waiting period between the actual introduction of an amendment and its being voted upon. The duration of the waiting period shall be ten(10) class days.

7.2 The Constitution shall be amended by two-thirds(2/3) vote of the total voting membership of the Student Senate and shall become a binding part of this Constitution upon receiving a majority of the ballots cast on the amendment in a referendum by the members of the Student Government Association and approved by President of the University.

7.3 Constitutional initiative may be exercised by the Student Government Association upon petition of a number of students equal to thirty(30) percent of the total number of ballots cast in the last general election.

## ARTICLE VIII: RATIFICATION

8.1 This Constitution shall take immediate effect and be enforced once ratified by majority of the ballots cast in an election by the members of the Student Government Association and approved by the appropriate University authorities.

## ARTICLE IX: PROVISIONS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

9.1 The Standing Committees for the Student Government Association shall be the Academic Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, and the Administrative Affairs Committee.

9.2 These committees shall be chaired by the entitled respective Vice-Presidents and only consist of members of the Student Government Association.

## ARTICLE X: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10.1 The Student Government Association General Assembly shall be

the Executive Board of Prairie View A&M University.

11.2 This Constitution and Bylaws supersedes all previous Constitutions and Bylaws. All Bylaws hereto now in effect and not in conflict with any provision of this Constitution and Bylaws are hereby declared to be binding and valid as statutory enactments.

11.3 Two elective offices shall not be held simultaneously by the same person, nor shall two persons simultaneously hold the same elective office.

11.4 Any expenditures by the Student Government Association of Prairie View A&M University shall be signed off for approval by the Student Government President, the President of the Student Senate, and this entities faculty advisor.

11.4 The term "announced meetings" has been stated in this Constitution and thus means that all individuals

possessing a Constitutional Right to fully participate in all meetings shall be notified at least 48 hours in advance. Any meetings held without such notification shall be considered null and void.